

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of May 13, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and considered. In the Office Action, claims 20-32 were allowed and claims 33-37 were rejected.

The specification was objected to in the Office Action for minor informalities. The specification has been amended to remove the reference to claims 1-14 on page 3. Also, the specification has been amended to include the language of original claim 11 and pending claim 20 relating to the diameter of the preproduct drops. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 33-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 33-37 have been cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claim 20 has been amended to more positively recite the method step. Additionally, claims 20-32 have been amended to replace the phrase “characterized in that” with “wherein”. The scope of these claims has not been changed. Also, these amendments do not raise any estoppel issues because they were not made to overcome any rejection or to define the claims over the prior art.

Allowable claims 20-32 remain in this application. Claims 33-37 have been canceled. Allowance of the application and a Notice to this effect are requested.

Appln. No.: 10/018,462
Amendment dated August 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2004

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees related to this matter to Deposit
Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: August 13, 2004

By:



Brian E. Hanlon

Registration No. 40,449

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001